

winds and following seas in the next chapter of their lives.

WORK TOGETHER TO FIX HEALTHCARE

(Mr. KILDEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, Senate Republicans continue to push a flawed and harmful healthcare bill, TrumpCare. It fails to address the basic healthcare needs of Americans.

Republicans themselves are deeply divided on the subject. You have Republicans negotiating with Republicans and they can't come to consensus. Democrats, meanwhile, have been willing to work to come to consensus to work together to fix those real issues that we know we have to address in the Affordable Care Act. We have not been given the opportunity.

There has been no transparency in any of this discussion, no hearings, and no public input. The entire process is behind closed doors. Of course, we know why. This is a bill that kicks millions of Americans off of healthcare. Twenty-two million people would lose health insurance. For those lucky enough to get healthcare, they will pay more for less. Their out-of-pocket expenses will go up. If you are 50 to 64, there will be an age tax.

This is a terrible piece of legislation. It ought to be rejected and we ought to work together to fix the problems we have.

TAMPA BAY AREA COMBATS HUMAN TRAFFICKING

(Mr. BILIRAKIS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, in light of the important anti-human trafficking legislation passed by the House, I want to recognize efforts in the Tampa Bay area to combat human trafficking.

I am especially proud of the joint task force formed by Pasco County Sheriff's Office Corporal Alan Wilkett, BayCare's Liana Dean, and many others. Their work brings us closer to a community that is safer for our most vulnerable citizens.

Human trafficking is not a distant problem for other countries. It is a human rights crisis happening right here at home. Last year, Florida reported 550 human trafficking cases. That is the third largest number of cases in the country. It is unacceptable.

We passed three bipartisan bills to strengthen detection systems, improve education efforts, and protect victims. We have got to pass them in the Senate as well and have it become law.

The fight against human trafficking is a fight for the safety and security of our communities.

TACKLING THE CAUSE OF THE OPIOID EPIDEMIC

(Ms. GABBARD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. GABBARD. Mr. Speaker, in my home State of Hawaii, hospitalizations and emergency room visits from opioid-related conditions have more than doubled in the last decade. More people are now dying from overdoses than motor vehicle accidents. This opioid epidemic is killing 91 Americans all across this country every single day.

For years, companies like Purdue Pharma, the maker of the commonly known drug OxyContin, have profited off of the suffering of millions of Americans who are dealing and struggling with opioid addiction. Now Purdue and others are going overseas, targeting foreign populations, using the very same shady marketing tactics, lies, and false advertising that helped them get rich at the expense of the American people.

This is absolutely unacceptable. We can't just keep wringing our hands about the opioid crisis without actually tackling the cause of it. Purdue and those responsible should be prosecuted for the deaths and lives that have been ruined as a result of their lies.

LET'S GET ON WITH BUSINESS

(Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I don't believe I have ever seen a bigger mountain made out of a tinier molehill in my 29 years in Congress than what is being made out of Donald Trump, Jr.'s, meeting with the Russian lawyer. It reminds me of the Wendy's ad several years ago that asked: "Where's the beef?"

I know that hindsight is 20-20 and holier than thou, but this is ridiculous.

Do you really believe that Chelsea Clinton would have refused to meet with a Russian lawyer who she was told had evidence that would incriminate Donald Trump?

Donald Trump, Jr., met with this woman for a few minutes, saw she had nothing, and nothing came out of it. No action was taken. Even Director Comey testified he had seen no evidence that even one vote was altered by anything the Russians did.

They have been investigating this for months, and this is the best they can come up with?

It is time to stop crying over the election and do something about some real problems.

AMENDMENTS TO NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT

(Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire. Mr. Speaker, I applaud my colleagues for passage of my three amendments to the National Defense Authorization Act last night.

Two of my amendments would address our Nation's opioid crisis as it impacts our Nation's servicemembers and veterans. They would direct the Defense Department to study the effectiveness of their opioid prescriber education policies and require Department providers to counsel or give referrals to the VA for transitioning veterans that suffer from addiction or chronic pain.

My third amendment would direct the Department of Defense to analyze sexual coercion in the military as part of its annual report on sexual assault.

While I commend the Department for their progress in reducing the occurrence of sexual assault in the military, more work needs to be done. Understanding sexual coercion is important to the safety of our brave men and women, and important for our national security.

□ 1230

RECOGNIZING MISS MOLLY MATNEY

(Mr. COMER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. COMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Miss Molly Matney, an outstanding resident of Metcalfe County in the First Congressional District of Kentucky.

Ms. Matney was crowned Miss Kentucky 2017 on July 1. She is an agriculture major at Western Kentucky University and hopes to pursue a career as an agricultural lending executive. Her talents and accomplishments distinguish her as a valuable asset to the Miss Kentucky organization, as well as the First District of Kentucky.

The "Farm Fit" platform she has developed encourages consumption of products found in local farmers' markets to help individuals maintain a healthy lifestyle. This concept complements and reemphasizes fundamental aspects of the Kentucky Department of Agriculture's "Kentucky Proud" campaign.

Her yearlong travels will allow her to promote both of these initiatives throughout the Commonwealth. I am confident she will utilize her knowledge of Kentucky's agriculture industry for the betterment of her platform and will continue to be a deserving advocate for Kentucky farmers.

I wish her the best of luck as she prepares to compete at the Miss America pageant in Atlanta City, New Jersey, on September 10, and I look forward to her continued contributions to the First District of Kentucky.

MILITARY HUNGER PREVENTION ACT

(Mr. MCGOVERN asked and was given permission to address the House

for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, as the House considers the fiscal year 2018 National Defense Authorization Act this week, I would like to draw attention to one provision that was left out of the bill: the Military Hunger Prevention Act.

It is shameful that military families like lower ranking enlisted service-members with larger households are among the 42 million Americans suffering from food insecurity.

While up to 22,000 military households rely on SNAP, many military families are unable to receive modest benefits due to an unintended provision that counts certain housing allowances as income when determining eligibility for SNAP.

To address this issue, I have joined with my friend, Representative SUSAN DAVIS, on the bipartisan Military Hunger Prevention Act. I am disappointed that this commonsense technical fix was left out of this year's NDAA, and I plan to continue working with my colleagues and our advocacy partners like MAZON: A Jewish Response to Hunger to move this legislation forward.

We owe it to the families who have sacrificed so much for our country to do all that we can to end hunger now.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO HABITAT FOR HUMANITY OF LIVINGSTON COUNTY, MICHIGAN

(Mr. BISHOP of Michigan asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BISHOP of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an inspirational organization in my district, Habitat for Humanity of Livingston County, located in the Eighth District of Michigan.

This July, Livingston County's Habitat for Humanity is celebrating its 25th year of transforming lives by building quality homes.

Habitat for Humanity was incorporated within Livingston County in 1992, and since then, the organization is dedicated to many community and international service projects.

Over the past 25 years, Habitat for Humanity has made a positive impact on Livingston County, constructing and rehabilitating 18 homes for families in need within the community.

Livingston County's Habitat for Humanity also supports the services of Habitat International in its fight against homelessness across the world, providing monetary donations which funded and constructed an additional 15 homes worldwide.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to congratulate Livingston County's Habitat for Humanity for its 25 years of service. Thank you, Habitat for Humanity, for your commitment to the people you serve and to our entire Livingston County community.

REMARKS ON NORTH KOREA

(Mr. BANKS of Indiana asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BANKS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, last week, as we celebrated our Nation's birthday, news broke that North Korea successfully launched its first intercontinental ballistic missile.

The missile's estimated range would put Alaska within reach. Like all Americans, I am deeply concerned by this development.

North Korea's possession of an estimated 20 nuclear warheads and chemical and biological weapons makes it an urgent and imminent threat to the United States.

While there are no easy options, our country must do more to deter the Kim regime. I strongly support building our missile defense programs, which is a priority in this year's National Defense Authorization Act, which the House is considering this week.

I also support increasing sanctions against China and Chinese companies that support the Kim regime. At this critical time, all options, including military action, must be on the table. The threat of a nuclear-armed North Korea is too serious to simply maintain the status quo.

PROVIDING FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2810, NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2018

Mr. BYRNE. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 440 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 440

Resolved, That at any time after adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for further consideration of the bill (H.R. 2810) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense and for military construction, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

SEC. 2. (a) No further amendment to the bill, as amended, shall be in order except those printed in the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution and amendments en bloc described in section 3 of this resolution.

(b) Each further amendment printed in the report of the Committee on Rules shall be considered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question in the House or in the Committee of the Whole.

(c) All points of order against the further amendments printed in the report of the Committee on Rules or amendments en bloc described in section 3 of this resolution are waived.

SEC. 3. It shall be in order at any time for the chair of the Committee on Armed Services or his designee to offer amendments en bloc consisting of amendments printed in the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution not earlier disposed of. Amendments en bloc offered pursuant to this section shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for 20 minutes equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Armed Services or their designees, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question in the House or in the Committee of the Whole.

SEC. 4. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment pursuant to this resolution the Committee shall rise and report the bill to the House with such further amendments as may have been adopted. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

THE SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Alabama is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. BYRNE. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BYRNE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks.

THE SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Alabama?

There was no objection.

Mr. BYRNE. Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 440 provides for a complete consideration of H.R. 2810, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2018. The rule allows for consideration of 122 amendments in addition to the amendments made in order by yesterday's rule.

This brings the total number of amendments made in order for full consideration to 210. When you add in the 275 amendments offered during the Armed Services Committee markup, we will, in total, have considered 485 amendments to this year's NDAA.

Just as important, there is a clear bipartisan split between the number of majority and the number of minority amendments made in order.

Mr. Speaker, this has been an incredibly open process that allowed Members of this body from both sides to have their input on this critical national security legislation.

Like other years, the NDAA is a great example of the House working through regular order in the authorizing process and getting the job done.

Thanks to this rule and the one we passed yesterday, the House will debate a number of issues where Members of this body have diverse views. From the future of GTMO to the future of the New START, the two NDAA rules provide for a robust debate on many important topics. That is a good thing, and I look forward to the debate.